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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/614,721	07/12/2000	Katsushi Matsuda	NEC-F82/USA	2343

30743 7590 12/02/2004

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CINDY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/614,721

Applicant(s)

MATSUDA ET AL.

Examiner

Cindy Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07/12/00 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☒ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/30/00, 12/19/02
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

This is in response to application filed on 07/12/200 in which claims 1-7 are presented for examination.

Priority(IDS)

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed on 11/09/00, 11/30/00 and 12/19/02 are in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98 and MPEP § 609. Because it has been placed in the application file, and the information referred to therein has been considered as to the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirakawa et al. (U.S 6035338) (Hirakawa).

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Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirakawa et al. (U.S. 6035338) (Hirakawa) in view of Yamanaka et al. (U.S. 5983247).

Regarding claim 1, Hirakawa discloses: an information retrieval apparatus comprising: a data monitoring and content judging for monitoring (105, fig. 1 and corresponding text, Hirakawa) a sentence (col. 4, lines 52-63, Hirakawa) retrieval from a database (102, fig. 1, and corresponding text, Hirakawa) and inferring a field which this sentence belongs to (the character string in tag #1, fig. 4 and col. 7, lines 48-60, Hirakawa); a retrieval screen (fig. 9, 10, Hirakawa) generating means for generating a retrieval screen for a user to perform a retrieval operation taking the inferred field as an object of retrieval and outputting the retrieval screen as data to be displayed together with said retrieval sentence (the sentences displayed in fig. 9 and 10 and col. 7, lines 37-60, Hirakawa).

Regarding claim 2, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1. In addition, Hirakawa discloses: a sentence retrieval from said database is a structured sentence (col. 4, lines 53-63, Hirakawa); said retrieval screen is a screen of a structured sentence in which screen a retrieval part¹ is embedded in the retrieval structured sentence and a user can retrieve (fig. 6 col. 6, lines 58 to col. 7, lines 15, Hirakawa).

Regarding claim 3, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 2 above. In addition, Hirakawa discloses: said retrieval screen is a screen of a structured sentence in which screen a retrieval part is separate in the retrieval structured sentence and a user can retrieve (fig. 6 col. 6, lines 58 to col. 7, lines 15, Hirakawa).

Regarding claim 4, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 above. In addition, Hirakawa discloses: wherein output of said retrieval screen generating means is

¹ Retrieval part as links display in fig. 6, user can click on underline sentences and retrieval the information about it.

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supplied to an input/output means for retrieving and displaying a sentence stored in said database (col. 6, lines (col. 6, lines 43-57, Hirakawa); and said input/output means displays a retrieval screen outputted by said retrieval screen generating means and retrieval again another sentence stored in said database by a retrieval operation performed by a user according to this retrieval screen (col. 6, lines 43-57, Hirakawa).

Regarding claim 5, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 2 above. In addition, Hirakawa discloses: said data monitoring and content judging means infers a field which the structured sentence belongs to, using as a criterion of judgment either one or both of the content of text data contained in the structured sentence and the number of links (col. 5, lines 50-65, Hirakawa).

Regarding claim 6, all the limitations of this claim have been noted in the rejection of claim 1 above. In addition, Hirakawa discloses: wherein a sentence retrieved from said database is given in advance the information for identifying its field (col. 5, lines 4-10, Hirakawa); said data monitoring and content judging means notifies said retrieval screen generating means of a field represented by said identifying information² (col. 6, lines 43-57, Hirakawa).

Regarding claim 7, all the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 4. It is therefore rejected as set forth above.

² The hyperlinks display in display screen is containing a difference address.

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cindy Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-4023. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 571-272-4023. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

CN

Cindy Nguyen
November 20, 2004

Frantz Coby
FRANTZ COBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER